

ABSTRACT

ANTONIUS SUDARISMAN, Some Characteristics of Migrant Workers in the United States of America in the 1930s in John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men, English Language Education Department, Faculty of Language and Art Education, Yogyakarta, 1993

This study deals with Of Mice and Men, a memorable novel by John Steinbeck, who is known widely as the Proletarian writer of the 1930s. The main objective of this study is to reveal the characteristics of migrant workers in the United States of America in the 1930s in the novel.

This study is a descriptive one. The approaches used in this study are sociological and biographical approaches, particularly because the focus of this study is to reveal the social picture that Steinbeck presents in Of Mice and Men.

This study, then, discovers some characteristics of migrant workers in the U.S.A. in the 1930s, as depicted by Of Mice and Men. These characteristics include: the exploitation of laborers by land owners and co-workers, color segregation, and the different types of migrant workers. This study also discovers the migrant workers's dreams for self-sufficiency, freedom, friendship and solidarity. These dreams were, however, shattered by the cruel forces of society, nature and human destiny.

Finally, this study finds that Of Mice and Men indeed presents some characteristics of migrant workers in the United States of America in the 1930s. The significance of this study, then, lies in the finding that a work of literature can reveal the reality of the society as it is proven by Of Mice and Men.